



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

February 20, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – NEW DAWN  
BOY'S GROUP HOME, INCORPORATED-WALNUT AND CHINO  
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Walnut and Chino Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by New Dawn Boy's Group Home, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Walnut Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Walnut Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

Chino Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Chino Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

Walnut Group Home is located in the Fifth District. Chino Group Home is located in Riverside County.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child

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safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to clean or paint the walls and doors throughout each home, replace the missing slats on the window blinds in the dining area, and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.

Walnut Group Home needs to repair or replace the bathtub and clean the bathtub grout, replace the broken towel rack, and repair and clean the carpet in bedroom one.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Fredda Davis, Executive Director, New Dawn Group Homes  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**New Dawn Boy's Group Home, Incorporated  
Walnut Group Home  
20723 Walnut Valley Drive  
Walnut, California 91789  
Phone: (323) 299-7357  
License Number: 191593081  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Walnut Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the bathroom, the bathtub finish is worn and discolored, the grout around the bathtub has mold and mildew, and the towel rack is broken. The walls and doors throughout the Group Home are dirty and the window blinds are missing slats in the dining area.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in bedroom one the carpet is stained and damaged.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

- 1. New Dawn Boy's Group Home management:**
  - a. Repair or replace the bathtub in bathroom one.**
  - b. Clean the bathtub grout.**

- c. Repair or replace the towel rack.
- d. Clean or paint the walls and doors throughout the Group Home.
- e. Repair or replace the blinds in the dining area.
- f. Replace the carpet in bedroom one.

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendation**

- 2. New Dawn Boy's Group Home management develop comprehensive NSPs that are measurable, attainable, and include short and long term goals.

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**New Dawn Chino Group Home  
Chino Group Home  
4340 Wilson Street  
Chino, California 91740  
Phone: (909) 595-1177  
License Number: 360908565  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Chino Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the walls and doors throughout the Group Home are dirty and the window blinds in the dining area are missing slats.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

- 1. New Dawn Boys Group Home management:**
  - a. Clean or paint the walls and doors throughout the Group Home as needed.**
  - b. Repair or replace the blinds in the dining area.**



## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

#### **Recommendation**

- 2. New Dawn Boy's Group Home management develop comprehensive NSPs that are measurable, attainable, and include short and long term goals.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

August 5, 2006

County of Los Angeles  
Department of Auditor Controller  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN / NEW DAWN GROUP HOMES**

Dear Ms. Rhue:

We appreciate Ms. Clark's visit in assessing our homes to help us maintain compliance. The following were areas of concern that we will correct as specified below:

1. **Recommendation: 20723 Walnut Valley Dr., Walnut /Lic. #191593081**
  - a. Re-glaze or replace the bathtub in bathroom one.
  - b. Clean the bathtub grout
  - c. Repair or replace the towel rack
  - d. Clean or re-paint the walls and doors throughout the Home
  - e. Repair or replace the blinds in the dining area

**Implementation Plan**

- a. The bathtub will be re-glazed by August 27, 2006
- b. The bathtub grout has been cleaned
- c. The towel rack will be replaced on or before August 27, 2006
- d. The walls in the entire home will be cleaned by September 15, 2006
- e. The blinds will be replaced by September 1, 2006

Our Quality Assurance Person will monitor the facility for compliance and report to the Administrator/Director monthly to ensure that compliance is maintained throughout the Home to prevent re-occurrence.

- f. **Recommendation: 20723 Walnut Valley Dr., Walnut**  
New Dawn Boy's Group Home management maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are measurable, attainable, and include short and long-term goals.

**Implementation Plan** – New Dawn treatment team consisting of the Social worker, facility manager and supervising childcare staff in concert with the child and his CSW will develop Needs and Service Plans that are measurable, attainable, and will include short and long-term goals. The plans will be reviewed quarterly by the in-house social worker.

1. **Recommendation:** 4340 Wilson Street, Chino, CA 91710 License #360908565
  - a. Clean or re-paint the walls and doors throughout the Group Home as needed.
  - b. Repair or replace the blinds in the dining area

**Implementation Plan**

- a. The walls and doors are in the process of being painted throughout the facility. The painting will be completed by August 15, 2006.
- b. The blinds in the dining area will be replaced by August 15, 2006

The Quality Assurance Person will monitor the home monthly for compliance and report deficiencies to the Administrator/Director.

2. **Recommendation:** New Dawn Boy's Home management maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are measurable, attainable, and include short and long-term goals.

**Implementation Plan:** New Dawn Group Home treatment team consisting of the Social worker, facility manager and supervising childcare staff in concert with the child and the County Social Worker will develop Needs and Services Plans that are measurable, attainable, and will include short and long-term goals. The Plans will be reviewed quarterly or sooner if the need dictates a change by the in-house Social worker.

Respectively Submitted,



Fredda Davis, Director